

# PROTECT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT



## BILL TEXT

### PROTECT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT OF 2023

#### **Congresswoman Cori Bush (MO-01)**

The **Protect Sexual and Reproductive Health Act of 2023** is an immediate and tangible federal response to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, despite the Supreme Court ruling to overturn the constitutional right to abortion care as set forth by the landmark cases *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. This legislation will:

- Modernize the Office of Population Affairs by establishing a **new Office of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-Being** within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that will oversee activities that promote sexual and reproductive health and well-being.
- Direct the newly-established Office to develop a national strategy known as the **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-Being Strategy (SRHW Strategy)**, which will:
  - Integrate sexual and reproductive health equity and reproductive justice into Federal programs and processes.
  - Identify areas to develop and implement a sexual and reproductive health framework that moves beyond a biomedical model of health to include services with respect to health.
  - Remove federal barriers to full reproductive autonomy.
  - Include patient-centered care models in the SRHW Strategy in hospitals, federally qualified health centers, Title X entities and include patient and community input in the development of the policy recommendations.
- Create an interagency task force comprised of all 15 federal agencies to coordinate on the development and implementation of the national strategy on sexual and reproductive health and well-being.
- Establish within HHS a **\$2.5 billion reproductive health justice and equity grant program** for community-based organizations to support

programs and services related to improving sexual and reproductive health care, including:

- mobile sexual and reproductive health care clinics;
- travel expenses;
- childcare;
- food assistance;
- lodging;
- medical care;
- translation services;
- doula care;
- housing assistance;
- legal aid;
- comprehensive sex education;
- behavioral health counseling; and
- patient education and information services.

Federal legislators have an obligation to fill in the tremendous gaps in sexual and reproductive health care left by a far-right extremist Supreme Court and the continued implementation of the Hyde Amendment. This legislation prioritizes the needs of marginalized communities – particularly Black, brown, Indigenous people, LGTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, low-income folks, and young people – to ensure that we are building nurturing environments that support every person, child, family, and community.

Far too often our most marginalized communities lack access to health care coverage, affordable and safe housing, healthy environments, a living wage, and economic stability. This bill uses a reproductive justice framework to ensure there is an abundance of federal resources provided to people in need of holistic and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, no matter where they live.

**The Protect Sexual and Reproductive Health Act is cosponsored by** Reps. Gwen Moore (WI-04), Rashida Tlaib (MI-12), Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09), Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Mark Takano (CA-39), Jamaal Bowman (NY-16), Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-00).

**The Protect Sexual and Reproductive Health Act is endorsed by** The Collaborative (formerly NBEC), Planned Parenthood Federation of America, National Women's Health Network, Catholics for Choice, Reproductive Health Access Project, Positive Women's Network-USA, Black Girls Vote, Reale Justice Network, Corridor Community Action Network, National Partnership for Women & Families, YWCA Metropolitan St. Louis, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, New Mexico Doula Association, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Physicians for Reproductive Health, and Power to Decide.